

St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

Celebrating 50 years! 1960-2010

New Providence, New Jersey

February 2010

In This Issue

WORSHIP & EDUCATION

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

**FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP
EVENTS**

MUSIC MINISTRY

**OUTREACH
OPPORTUNITIES**

GARDENING NEWS

PASTORAL CARE

**PARISHIONERS IN THE
NEWS**

**DESPERATELY SEEKING
USHERS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
& JUSTICE TOUR**

HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE

**CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE
THANK YOU**

CALENDAR

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**, with a call to renew our relationship with God. To do this, we need to make space for God in our lives once again. But how can God connect with us if we don't turn off the noise? Noise takes over just about every aspect of our lives, whether it's blaring music in the stores, ipods fastened to our ears, the radio in the car, or television at home. Silence is the opposite of noise.

The spiritual discipline of being silent teaches us to listen to what God is saying to us. Why not set aside some time intentionally each day in Lent to "be still and know that I am God"? You can make a plan to sit with God for 15 minutes a day for the forty days of this Lenten season. Make it the same time each day. Start with a prayer or the reading of a Psalm or Bible verse, and then let your thoughts empty themselves before God's presence. As the days lengthen ("lengthen" is the origin of the word Lent), let your mind be stilled, find the peaceful "still waters" of your soul (Psalm 23), and just be with your Maker.

Silence frees us from the need to control others...a frantic stream of words flows from us in an attempt to straighten others out. We want so desperately for them to agree with us, to see things our way. We evaluate people, judge people, condemn people. We devour people with our words. Silence is one of the deepest Disciplines of the Spirit simply because it puts the stopper on that.

--Richard Foster, from his book *Freedom of Simplicity*

Silence becomes a gift to us when we practice it. Not only does it provide the space for us to come into God's presence, it also allows us to be more wholly in the presence of the people we live with. May you have a holy and blessed Lent.

Faithfully,

Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Rector

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Sundays

February 7: 5 Epiphany

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
5pm-Contemporary Service
5:30pm-Super Bowl Party
Suggested donation \$20 toward Haiti relief

February 14: Last Epiphany Valentine's Day

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
3pm-Absalom Jones Celebration, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

February 21: 1 Lent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
6pm-Senior Youth Group

February 28: 2 Lent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
6pm-Junior Youth Group

Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 9:30am

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, February 16

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
6pm in the parish hall

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
7:30am, 9:30am, 7:30pm

Saturday, February 27

60's Dance sponsored by the 50th Anniversary Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

Sunday School Hospitality

Each Sunday we offer hospitality to children who come to learn about God at our church. Hospitality is a central biblical value in both the Christian and Jewish scriptures (Genesis 18:1-22) as stated in an article in *The Episcopal Teacher* by Jennifer Gamber. Hospitality is important to children and families who come through our church doors and attendance is the way for each child to grow in faith. To help your child grow in faith, our volunteer teachers offer their time and talents every Sunday to plan different lessons for your child. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for your child to experience hospitality at church as in ages past, to develop a Christian education and to meet other friends in Sunday School!

Nursery News

Welcome to Amy Macdonald who will be a student nursery assistant with Tina Luque each Sunday in the Noah's Ark Nursery for the 10am service! You can stay with your child anytime or leave to go to the worship service.

Godly Play Team Begins

We have a great Godly Play Storytelling Team that began this January. Bible stories and parables are taught with a storytelling method that uses story figures to help them wonder, explore faith and become aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Resource activities help children express themselves about the story lesson.

Sunday School Bible Study

There is a Bible Study Chart for all grade level teachers to follow each term. The chart includes Bible verses, The Lord's Prayer, Golden Rule, Ten Commandments, Psalm 23, Church Seasons, Creeds and overviews of the Holy Bible, Prayer Book, and Hymnal. The Bible Study for each grade level will be taught along with the regular Lectionary and the Rock Solid curriculum.

Sunday School Outreach Project: Easter Cards For Mariners

Children may make colorful Easter cards at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for mariners at sea and on rivers. The Seamen's Institute sends the cards along with gifts for each seaman. Join us!

Youth Sunday Service

Our Sunday School children have an opportunity to be a part of the church service! What a good learning experience! Classes from Preschool to Grade 5 will be participating in the Youth Service on **March 7** at 10am. They will be ushers, acolytes, readers and singers, and even draw a cover for the bulletin! We will be planning and practicing during the February Sunday School classes.

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Sunday, February 7: For Junior and Senior Youth Groups; Contemporary Service from 5-5:30pm (note time change due to Super Bowl start time), followed by the Parish Super Bowl Party, sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, beginning at 5:30pm. We should be able to fill at least one table. Suggested donation \$20 toward Haiti relief.

Saturday, February 13: One Day Camelback Ski Trip for both Junior and Senior Youth Groups. We will be leaving by car pool in the morning and returning in the evening. Please confirm your participation. To date, Kevin Fairchild, possibly the Chow family and friends are planning to come. Susan Dragos and I are planning to drive. Parents, please advise if you are willing to drive. Junior lift tickets (ages 7-18) at \$38 each, ski rental \$33. Buy at least the lift tickets online to print a bar coded pass and avoid long lines at the ticket window. For more information visit www.skicamelback.com.

Sunday, February 14: Youth invited to attend Absalom Jones Service in the Cathedral in Trenton (Bishop presiding). Rev. Peggy (and others as needed) to leave church parking lot at 1pm arriving at 2:30pm for the African American Dance and Poetry Readings. Eucharist starts at 3pm with Petrina Pyatt preaching. No evening Youth Group meeting because of the ski trip the day before.

Sunday, February 21: Senior Youth Group 6-8pm

Sunday, February 28: Junior Youth Group 6-8pm

Sunday, March 7: Senior Youth Group 6-8pm, Bowling Event

Brian Bussey

LOOKING AHEAD AT OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

Some special events are coming up in the next few months, especially the St. Andrew's 50th Anniversary Celebration on **April 24**. The Choir is preparing special music for the event and needs your help. If you ever sang in the choir or ever thought you might like to sing in the choir, come and join us. I am amazed at the beautiful sound that is produced by our small group, but just think how much more sound would come with a few additional members, particularly in the bass section.

Not as far ahead is the second contemporary service scheduled for **February 7**, just before the Super Bowl party. Judging by the first contemporary service held in January, I believe the second one will be super as well...low key, relaxed and Spirit-filled...what more can we ask for?

A little further ahead is the 40-day period of Lent, beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**. We are planning a special anthem for **Palm Sunday, March 28**. It is called "*Hosanna! He Comes in the Name of the Lord*" and will be performed not only with the senior choir, but with a children's chorus as well. If your child would like to participate in the children's chorus, please let me know via email to music@standrewschurch.org. We will be rehearsing after the 10am service as we get closer to Palm Sunday.

For Easter Sunday, the choir is preparing a wonderful anthem entitled "*I Know that my Redeemer Lives*". This anthem has a special trumpet accompaniment, which means we need a trumpeter. If you or your child is a trumpeter and would like to be a part of this special worship experience, please contact me at music@standrewschurch.org.

More to come in next month's edition.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Doris Merrick, Minister of Music

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Starfish Food pantry food collection dates are **February 21** and **March 21**.

"Good News Coins" is our Sunday School stewardship project to send our gently used curriculum to missionary Theresa Hudler in Cambodia. We need \$75 by June. Look for the coin collection containers in the parish hall.

Earthquake in Haiti - Please consider making a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development to assist with emergency funding to Haiti. Mark checks "Haiti Fund". For additional information go to website er-d.org. Lenten Outreach Project: save the date for St. Andrew's 3rd Fish-n-Chip dinner on **Friday, March 19!** Proceeds to support ERD Haiti Fund.

Cleaning closets on these cold days? Please consider some new homes for your gently used items. For children's clothing and toys, we will start collecting donated items for the St. Andrew's Children's Clothing and Toy Sale in early April. The sale is scheduled for **May 22**. For adult clothes, the Market Street Mission clothing collection bin is always open in the basement. Please contact Sandy Davies or Diane LaPara for more information.

GARDENING NEWS

Even though physical gardening in the church gardens has gone dormant with the arrival of winter, there have been some indoor activities taking place. The 2010 GOSA activity calendar has been created and will soon be distributed. And plans are in the works to make improvements over the winter to the GOSA closet, where gardening tools are stored.

Our GOSA Kickoff meeting will be on **Sunday, March 14**.

We are planning to sponsor our April flower fundraising event this spring, to be called "GOSA Flower & Garden 2010".

A special thanks to those garden volunteers who have given their time and talents in our gardens over the past year. We appreciate your dedication.

Remember our GOSA motto: "WE can do it, YOU can help!"
We look forward to a helping hand from more parishioners this spring.

Please contact Joyce Kern or Rick Anderson, GOSA Co-Chairpersons, with questions.

GIVING AND RECEIVING PASTORAL CARE

Homebound members of our parish enjoy a regular visit from fellow parishioners who bring them flowers or communion from the altar. Those who are just home from the hospital appreciate a home-cooked meal. Sometimes a phone call or card to one of our members who is grieving the loss of a loved one can mean a great deal. Gestures such as these amplify the visits of the rector and reflect a caring community.

If you expect to be in the hospital, please let us know so that we can pray for you.
If you would be available to assist in the ministry of pastoral care, please contact Rev. Peggy at hodgkinsp@gmail.com.

A CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE THANK YOU

The Christmas Narrative was a Great Success! On Christmas Eve, 30 children worked together to re-enact the first Christmas in our annual Christmas Narrative. In addition to the cast members, many of the teenagers supported the effort as assistant directors, understudies, musicians and props managers. The sheep may have stolen the show, adding to the cast and audience's enjoyment.

This long-standing St. Andrew's tradition was enjoyed by all who participated and attended. Special thanks to ALL of the adults who helped in so many ways: providing refreshments, repairing props, coordinating music and providing accompaniment, and the huge task of getting the set ready and cleaned up. Thank you!

Eileen Fairchild and Kevin Fairchild, Co-Directors

DESPERATELY SEEKING USHERS

HELP! Seeking adult men, women and youth ushers for 10am service. Ushering is an important part of the service, but not a difficult task for anyone. If you're currently not volunteering in a ministry to support the Sunday service or Sunday School, why not give ushering a try? Please help us out! We are flexible, and our monthly ushering schedule will fit your schedule. **GIVE IT A TRY!**

We welcome Susan Dragos to our cadre of 10am ushers!

Please contact Rick Anderson at 464-8911. Usher instructions provided.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & JUSTICE TOUR

On **Sunday, February 28** from 2-5pm, GreenFaith and the Ironbound Community Corporation will offer a Newark Environmental Health and Justice Tour, providing people of faith an opportunity to see firsthand the impact of pollution on communities of color and low-income communities.

A fascinating trip!

HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year we begin Holy Week with the invitation to "enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby [God] ha[s] given us life and immortality." Beginning in the early centuries of the Church, Christians have made pilgrimages to the Holy Land in order to contemplate the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry. They went to pray at the traditional sites of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem; of the Last Supper and the foot-washing; of the Garden of Gethsemane; and the places where he was arrested, tried, tortured, crucified and buried. And the site of his glorious resurrection.

For the benefit of those who could not make the literal pilgrimage, a series of services to contemplate these mighty acts was developed. The Church invited everyone to make that pilgrimage right where we regularly pray, in the communities where we worship and serve. And so each congregation adopted the pattern of Holy Week worship. It is meet and right so to do. I want, however, to invite you to a different experience of Holy Week this year. Trinity Cathedral in Trenton is the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of New Jersey. It is not only a congregation but a hub for all of the ministries of our Diocese. It is a second church home for all Episcopalians in our Diocese and the center of the Bishop's ministry. In the name of the Cathedral, I invite you to join me along with brothers and sisters from all around our Diocese in the observance of Holy Week. Please come and worship with your wider church family in your Cathedral. Come to contemplate the mighty acts by which our God, in mercy, has redeemed the world through the cross and passion of Jesus Christ our Lord.

I look forward to seeing you at Trinity Cathedral in Holy Week.

+George Councill

A CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE THANK YOU

The Christmas Narrative was a Great Success! On Christmas Eve, 30 children worked together to re-enact the first Christmas in our annual Christmas Narrative. In addition to the cast members, many of the teenagers supported the effort as assistant directors, understudies, musicians and props managers. The sheep may have stolen the show, adding to the cast and audience's enjoyment. This long-standing St. Andrew's tradition was enjoyed by all who participated and attended. Special thanks to ALL of the adults who helped in so many ways: providing refreshments, repairing props, coordinating music and providing accompaniment, and the huge task of getting the set ready and cleaned up. Thank you!

Eileen Fairchild and Kevin Fairchild, Co-Directors

Merci

Gracias

CALENDAR

Feb. 14	Sunday, 3pm, Absalom Jones celebration
Feb. 15	Church and Nursery School Offices Closed - Presidents Day
Feb. 15-19	Nursery School closed - Winter Break
Feb. 16	Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper, 6pm
Feb. 16	Tuesday, 7:30pm, Vestry Meeting, PL
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday, 7:30am, 9:30am, 7:30pm Eucharist Services
Feb. 17	Wednesday, 10:30am Bible Study, PL
Feb. 20	Saturday morning Vestry Retreat
Feb. 20	Saturday, 8:30am Brotherhood Breakfast mtg, PH
Feb. 24	Wednesday, 1:30pm Synthesis Study Group, PL
Feb. 27	60's Dance sponsored by the 50th Anniversary Committee
Mar. 5/6	226th Convention of Diocese of New Jersey, Cherry Hill
Mar. 7	Sunday, 11:30am Sunday School spring teachers mtg, PL
Mar. 7	Sunday, 5:30pm Contemporary Service, Sanctuary
Mar. 16	Tuesday, 7:30pm Vestry Meeting, PL
Mar. 18	Thursday, 5pm Nursery School Pizza Night, PH
Mar. 20	Saturday, Brotherhood Breakfast meeting, PH
Apr. 4	Easter Sunday
Apr. 18	Passion & Purpose Sunday
April 24	St. Andrew's 50th Anniversary Celebration
Nov. 1	Eleven-Day Pilgrimage to South Africa w/Bishop Council

PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS

Amy Evans and Carolyn Glatz received the New Providence EMS Life Saving Award at a recent NP Borough Council meeting. In October 2009, they were called to a residence where an individual was having an allergic reaction, and had a low pulse and difficulty breathing.

Amy and Carolyn administered medication which restored the patient's vital signs and saved his life. Way to go, Amy and Carolyn!

Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor*

ehjordan@comcast.net

Deadline for the March issue of the eNET is Monday, February 22.

Submissions may be edited.